

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

OCTOBER 1987

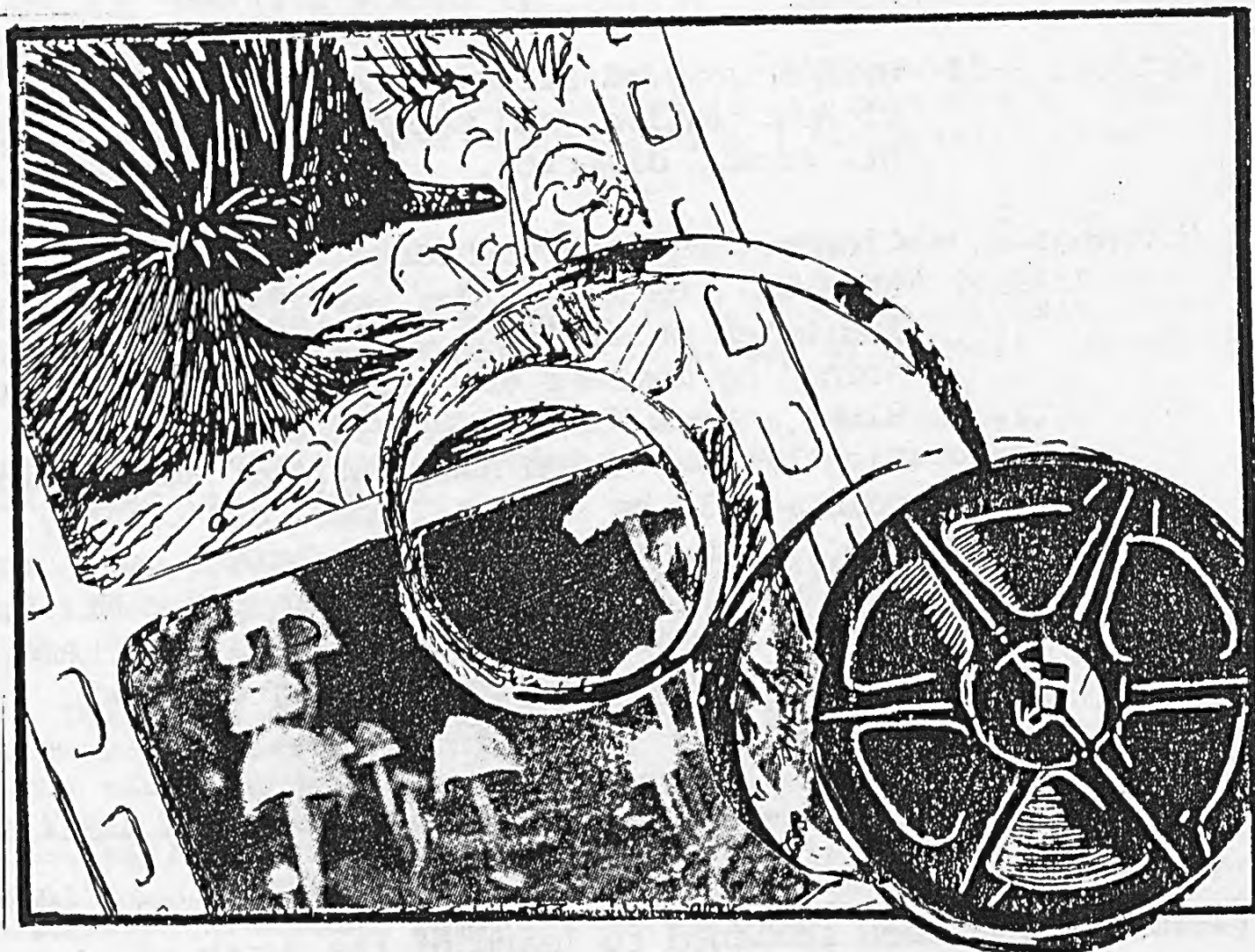
EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting : October 2 - Films, Natural History Subjects.

Meeting : November 6 - Flora Study Night - Fabaceae.
Venue: Creswick.

Excursion : October 4 - Trawalla, Lake Goldsmith -
Mr. I. Tiley.

Excursion : November 8 - Mt. Beckworth, Clunes area -
Mr. G. Binns



President :	Miss H BURGESS	312210
Secretary :	Mr B DOWLING	432425
Treasurer :	Mr W WHITESIDE	413544
Editors :	Mr G BINNS	332282
	Mr L FINK	052 861319

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydlard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARM-STRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY*

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of Committee will be held at the Dowling residence, Findlays Road, Learmonth on Tuesday October 27. Meet at 12 Pleasant Street South, 7:30pm.

EXCURSIONS

- October 4 Trawalla and Lake Goldsmith areas.
Depart Crockers corner at 9:30am to rendezvous with excursion leader at the Snake Valley turn-off on the Western Highway, near Trawalla, at approx. 10am. (a left turn, near blue-metal heaps!) Full day excursion.
- October 9-11 WVFNCA weekend at St. Arnaud. Annual meeting of Association, and program of excursions in St. Arnaud district. Details available.
- November 8 Clunes, Mt. Beckworth area. Please note that this will be a full day excursion (half-day indicated on syllabus card), and we will be joined by members of Creswick and Maryborough Clubs, the F.N.C. of VIC, and the National Plant Preservation Association. Rendezvous points will be - 10am Clunes Post Office; 1pm (lunch stop) Gardens by bridge over creek in Clunes; 2pm depart lunch stop for Mt. Beckworth. Members are requested to wear name tags to assist in the 'getting-to-know' process with the guest groups.
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OBITUARY

Members have been saddened to learn of the death of a respected member, Geoff Hocking.

Geoff passed away on September 15 after a short illness.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Valerie, Caroline and David.

The botanical study night, scheduled for our November meeting, will focus on that rather vast family of "pea" like flowering plants. As an additional aid to members the October and November Newsletters will include notes and diagrams prepared by the late Stella Bedggood, on Species which may be encountered in our region

PAPILIONACEAE.

There are fourteen genera comprising 59 species in Victoria.

Flowers consist of five petals - the standard, two lateral wings, and two lower petals joined together to form a keel. The keel covers the stamens and the pistil. The fruit is a pod.

The genus PULTENAEA is distinguished by the presence of both stipules at the base of the leaves, and bracteoles (small appendages) on the calyx, or just below the calyx. Leaves are usually alternate or in groups of three (illustrated)

In the genus DAVIESIA both stipules and bracteoles are absent. The leaves are alternate and rigid. Pods are triangular (illustrated).

Leaves of the genus DILLWYNIA are alternate, incurved, and without stipules. There are small deciduous bracteoles at the base of the calyx (illustrated).

There are other small differences distinguishing Pultenaea, Daviesia and Dillwynia, but the above features may be starting points in beginning to identify these three species. Pultenaea gunnii is very common and widespread in the Ballarat district. P. pedunculata (prostrate) P. daphnoides, P. graveoleas also occur. P. muelleri, P. weindorferi are found in the Wombat forest.

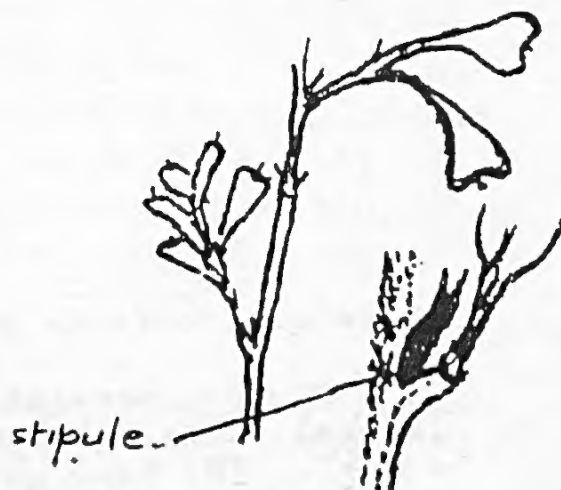
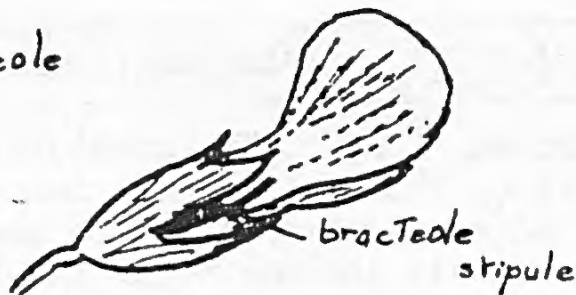
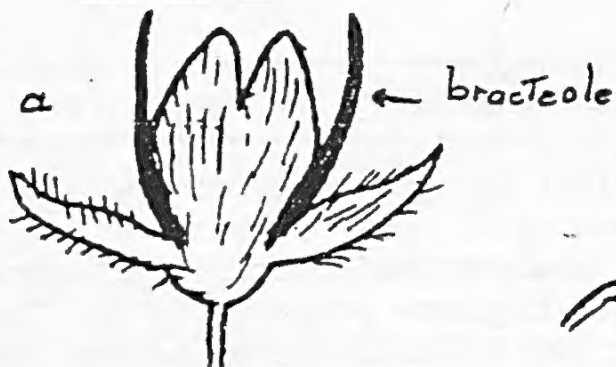
Dillwynias are widespread but not so common. D. hispida, D. sericea, D. retorta.

Daviesia corymbosa, D. latifolia, D. ulicifolia also occur.

S. Bedggood.

(Contd page 4)

Pultenaea



a Pultenaea humilis

{ Standard \pm as long as broad.
{ Stipules and floral bracteoles present.

b Pultenaea daphnoides



Daviesia



D. brevifolia

Daviesia corymbosa D. ulicina

D latifolia

{ Stipules and floral bracteoles absent. Pods triangular.
{ Leaves rigid and pungent. Leaves alternate.

Dillwynia



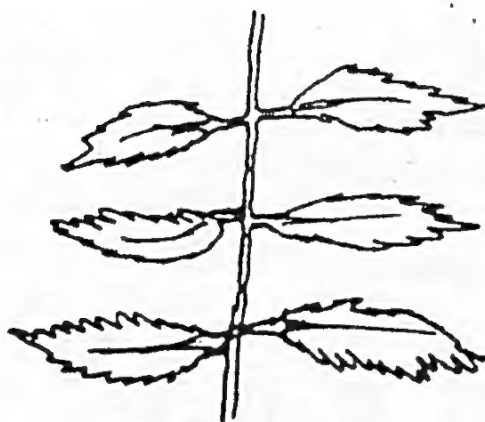
Dillwynia sericea

a. standard b.wings c.keel d. leaves

stipules absent; floral bracts not persistent.
Standard broader than long. Leaves incurved.



Alternate



Opposite



Decussate



Incurved



recurved



keel.

S.B. 1976

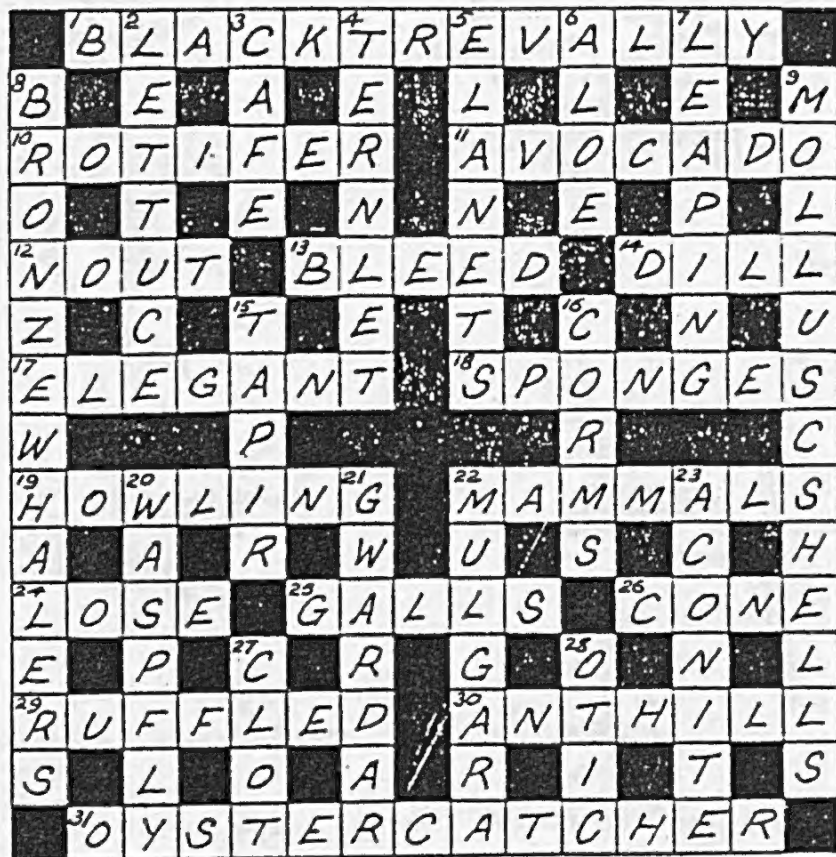
"THE LIVING TREE AND THE UNDERGROUND FLOOD"

The title chosen for the talk, given at our September meeting by Mr. Terry White, dramatically places an emphasis on the relationship of the plants and the unseen presence of subterranean water.

Terry imaginatively and graphically provided an explanation of the effects on the underground water levels by the removal of trees and the eventual contamination through salinity. The focus was sharpened by the use of effective visual aids in the form of Sel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree", and a set of slides used within the education activities of the State Salinity Program. The latter provided an excellent explanation of the cause of Salination.

Terry is working with the Community Education and Information Branch of the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands and is involved with the action research project for School Communities, Salt Watch, during which sampling of water from many districts is carried out. This will be repeated in 1988, under the title of Salt Action, to note salt movement and provide information for decision making and future action. Reclamation projects and methods were also discussed.

Through Terry's enthusiastic and lucid presentation, members gained a very good understanding of this menace to our rural environment and measures being taken for its control.



SOLUTION TO
CROSSWORD No 2
by TANTALUS

(September Newsletter)

(C).

FOR YOUR DIARY

October 16-18 Victorian FNCA Springtime get-together, Wahranga Basin Holiday Camp, Rushworth. PH: 03 5272749.

November 6 Club Meeting - commencing 7:30pm at Tremearne House, School of Forestry and Land Management, Creswick. Turn right beside Old Town Hall (Museum) in main street of Creswick and pass over the creek. Park outside the gate of the school.



P.S. Remember to bring some Supper !

ANCHOR PLANT CONSERVATION PROJECT

In September 1985, the Club submitted a proposal (to the Bicentennial Environment Program) for a project for conservation of the Anchor Plant (*Discaria pubescens*) "on actual known sites, and to re-establish the species on selected habitats" within the Ballarat region.

Now, in 1987 we have been advised that the proposal has been approved and an amount of \$5,000 allocated by the Australian Bicentennial Authority. To date, there has not been an official announcement on the scheme but a "steering committee" comprising representatives of our Club (as convenor) and Creswick F.N.C., Gavin Jamieson (liaison with local government bodies), Greg Wallis (liaison with Dept. of C.F. and L), and possibly S.G.A.P. representation, is reviewing the proposal.

It will be necessary to consider the original plan in terms of time span and deployment of funds, as the project was first designed over the period '85-86 to '88-89.

Members may be able to assist in survey work initially, when plans are formed, and in other ways as the project develops. Members interested in the scheme to conserve this plant endangered in Western Victoria, may obtain further details from me.

Greg Binns.

OBSERVATIONS - SEPTEMBER MEETING

- J. Gregurke : Mallee Fowl scrat ching on the road near 'Crater' in Little Desert; seen during a school excursion.
- F. Harrap : Aug. 8 - 140-150 Cattle Egrets, Tait Street, Sebastopol. 120-130 Y.T.B. Cockatoos, 5:20pm near Mt. Clear roundabout, Geelong Road.
- B. Whiteside : Platypus in Williamsons Creek, Scotsburn.
- B. Dowling : Red Fin spawning, Lake Learmonth; being eaten by Cattle Egrets.
- G. Mangus : Whistling Kite in Mt. Pleasant.
- H. Burgess : On trip to coast, many Black Shouldered Kites by roadsides. Dense expanses of heath and wattle species in Anglesea area.
- B. Murphy : Reported on a fruitful and pleasant campout of W.V.F.N.C.A. in the Little Desert.

